

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please consider the following:

1. (Original) An asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) digital subscriber line (DSL) head-end network; comprising:

a network control system, which manages call traffic through the head-end network by assigning traffic to voice channels based on available time slots from a telephone company;

a plurality of customer premise equipment (CPE) units which provide customer line terminations with telephone service, the CPE units being coupled to an ATM multiplexer;

the network control system having an assignment mechanism which concentrates telecommunications traffic between the multiplexer and an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch on the channels to compensate for a number of customer line terminations exceeding a number of voice channels.

2. (Original) The network as recited in claim 1, wherein the assignment mechanism allocates voice channels in accordance with a priority of a call.

3. (Original) The network as recited in claim 1, wherein the number of customer line terminations exceeds the number of voice channels by greater than 2.

4. (Original) The network as recited in claim 1, wherein the voice channels are included on digital signal 1 (DS1) links to a telephone company switch.

5. (Original) The network as recited in claim 1, wherein the telecommunications traffic includes voice and data transfer.

6. (Original) The network as recited in claim 1, wherein the assignment mechanism is embodied in a software application stored on the network control system.

7. (Original) A method for concentrating traffic on a digital subscriber line (DSL) head-end network, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of customer premise equipment devices, which provide telephone interfaces to customer terminations;

allocating timeslots from a telephone company for usage of a telephone network;

managing the timeslots using a network control system by employing channels to transmit and receive information through the head-end network; and

concentrating telecommunications traffic between the customer terminations and an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch on the channels to compensate for a number of customer line terminations exceeding a number of available channels.

8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step of concentrating telecommunications traffic includes the steps of:

evaluating demand on the head-end network; and

determining a ratio between the number of customer line terminations to number of available channels based on the demand.

9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the ratio is greater than two.

10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the ratio is greater than ten.

11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of additionally concentrating traffic by the telephone company.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step of managing the timeslots includes the step of assigning incoming and outgoing calls to the channels in accordance with a priority criterion.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the priority criterion includes first-in first-out criterion.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the priority criterion includes priority of incoming calls over outgoing calls.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the priority criterion includes priority of voice over data.

16. (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of establishing virtual circuits through the head-end network to make connects between the telephone company and the customer premise equipment devices.

17. (New) A method for concentrating traffic on a digital subscriber line (DSL) head-end network, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of customer premise equipment devices, which provide telephone interfaces to customer terminations;

allocating timeslots from a telephone company for usage of a telephone network;

managing the timeslots using a network control system by employing channels to transmit and receive information through the head-end network; and

concentrating telecommunications traffic between the customer terminations and an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch on the channels to compensate for a number of customer line terminations exceeding a number of available channels, wherein the step of concentrating telecommunications traffic includes the steps of:

evaluating demand on the head-end network; and

determining a ratio between the number of customer line terminations to number of available channels based on the demand.